

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 11-14 as follows:

AI While it holds this identifier in memory A, the controller captures an image of the subject through the primary optical element 210 and places it into memory B (306). Next, the controller performs conventional color formatting of the captured image, such as raw image to Bayer ~~RG~~RGB image formatting (308).

Please amend the specification at page 7, line 23 to page 8, line 4 as follows:

AB Alternatively, the controller may encode the metadata directly into the image or the file header/footer (see, for example, block 310, Fig. 2). For example, metadata such as a time stamp, location (e.g., GPS coordinates), etc. may be concatenated with the identifier representing user attribute data and encoded into the image. The metadata is generated by the camera, devices in the camera (a GPS device, clock) or from user input. The embedded metadata may also include a hash of the image that is later used to detect image alteration. To be effective, a hash function used to compute an image hash that is embedded in the image should be insensitive to the alteration of the image caused by embedding auxiliary data into the image. For more on associating metadata with media signals such as images, audio and video, see co-pending application 09/507,096, entitled Associating Data with Images In Imaging Systems, filed on February 17, 2000.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 3-10 as follows:

AB There are several application scenarios for this user authentication process. In one scenario, the user attribute data for a person purported to be the photographer is captured (414, 416), hashed (418, 420) and compared with the extracted user data (412). If there is a match, then the photographer is deemed to have created the suspect image (422). In another scenario, user attributes (416) for several photographers are captured (416), hashed (418), and stored in a database (420), along with information about the person. The user attribute data extracted from the image is used as an index to this database to look up the identity of the photographer.